

REMARKS

I. Objections to Claims 2 and 12

The Examiner has objected to the above referenced claims due to typographical errors. Applicants have made the changes as requested, and regret these errors. Applicants further thank the Examiner for bringing these inadvertent typographical errors to their attention.

II. Rejection of Claims 2, 4-10, and 12-13 under 35 USC 112

The Examiner has rejected the above referenced claims under 35 USC 112, regarding the requirement that the specification contain a written description of the invention and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out the invention.

Specifically the Examiner has raised concerns regarding the word “substituted” when applied in claims 2 and 12. In these claims, “substituted” appears in the phrases:

“substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group” and
“substituted or unsubstituted aryl group”

After careful consideration, Applicants believe the best approach is to delete in such instances the phrasing “substituted or unsubstituted”, so that simply “alkyl group” and “aryl group” is retained. Applicants reason that in the universe of alkyl and aryl groups there are only substituted or unsubstituted groups. Therefore deletion of the phrase will bring more clarity to the expression. It is respectfully submitted that such deletions are not considered new matter in view of the above rationale.

III. The 35 USC 103(a) Rejection of Claims 1-9 and 11-13

The examiner has rejected claims 1-9 and 11-13 under 25 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zenhausern et al. (US 4,102,639) in view of Reil (US 2002/0002225).

Zenhausern et al. disclose dyestuffs containing an amine salt of a specific acid, salt-forming, water-solublizing group. These amine salts of reactive dyestuffs have good to excellent solubility in nonpolar aprotic solvents or mixtures of solvents [abstract]. These materials are used to dye organic fiber materials [claim 1]. These salts are said to be "distinguished by a better solubility in aprotic organic solvents, whilst the dyes produced from organic aprotic solvents with the use of reactive amine salts according to the invention are distinguished, compared with dyeing obtained with corresponding amine salts of non-reactive anionic dyestuffs, but better wet fastness properties." [col. 2, lines 31-37]

While the salts of reactive dyestuffs of Zenhausern et al. are used to dye polymeric materials by dissolving the dyes in a solvent and exposing polymeric fibers to the resulting solution [examples], the compositions of the present invention are melt-blended compositions prepared by melt-blending the laser-transmitting black colorant of the present invention with the thermoplastic resin of the present invention. No indication is given in Zenhausern et al. that their dyes containing the specific water-solubilizing group of their invention would be suitable for use in preparing a thermoplastic resin composition, which requires a process of heating thermoplastic polymer above its melting point.

Moreover, coapplicant Orient Chemical believes that the salts disclosed in Zenhausern et al. likely do not have the thermal stability necessary for use in preparing the compositions of the present invention. And this is supported in that no mention is made in Zenhausern et al. of such a property.

Reil discloses the use of a thermoplastic composition comprising dye combination made from polymer-soluble dyes. The dyes disclosed in Reil are neutral compounds.

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One would have had no motivation to combine the water- and solvent soluble salts of reactive dyestuffs of Zenhausern et al. with the disclosure of Reil to arrive at the present invention.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Claims as amended are in condition for allowance and that the case may pass to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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